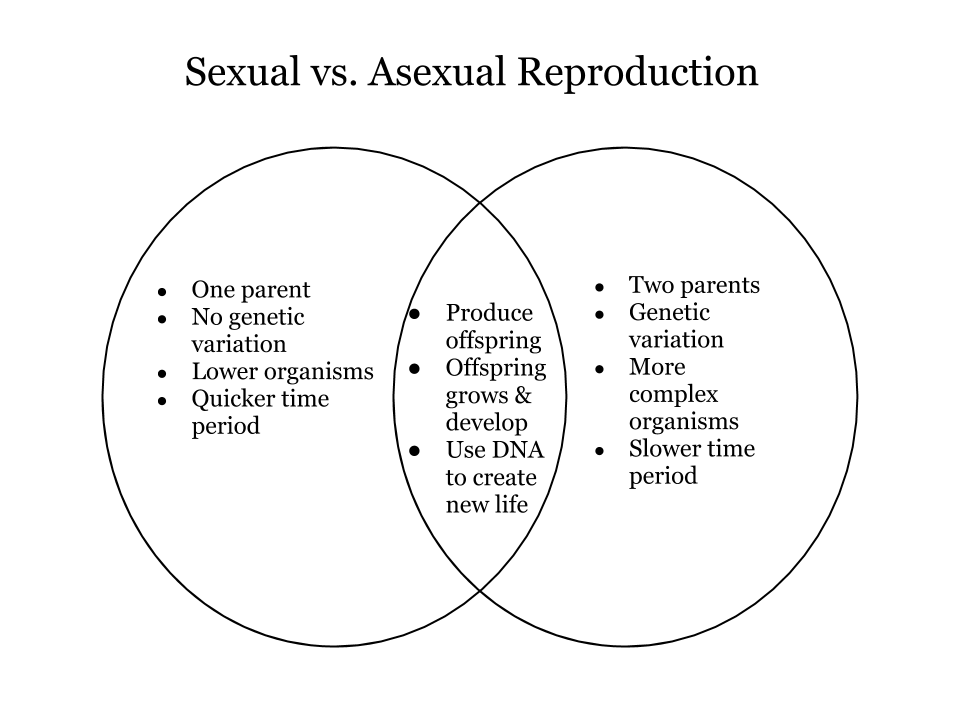
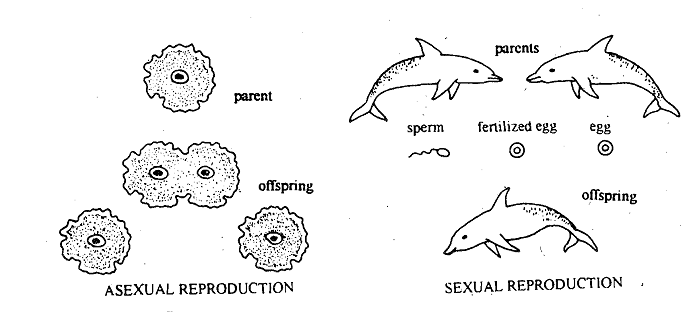
While **asexual reproduction** only involves one organism, **sexual reproduction** requires both a male and a female. Some plants and unicellular organisms reproduce asexually. Most mammals and fish use sexual reproduction. Some organisms like corals and komodo dragons can reproduce either sexually or asexually. But in the long term (over several generations), lack of sexual reproduction compromises their ability to adapt to the environment because they do not benefit from the genetic variation introduced by sexual reproduction.





<http://youtu.be/jk2RJm5RBEk>

This is a link to a video which would be good for primary students.

**What Kinds of Organisms Do Asexual Reproduction?**

Although people don't do asexual reproduction, lots of organisms do. [Bacteria](http://biology.answers.com/biodiversity/an-introduction-to-domain-bacteria) and [archaea](http://biology.answers.com/biodiversity/an-introduction-to-domain-archaea) reproduce asexually, as do many [eukaryotic](http://biology.answers.com/biodiversity/an-introduction-to-domain-eukarya) organisms like [protists](http://biology.answers.com/biodiversity/an-introduction-to-the-protista-kingdom" \o "protists), [fungi](http://biology.answers.com/biodiversity/an-introduction-to-the-fungal-kingdom), [plants](http://biology.answers.com/biodiversity/an-introduction-to-the-plant-kingdom), and even some [animals](http://biology.answers.com/biodiversity/an-introduction-to-the-animal-kingdom). When you see coloured spots on mould growing on your bread or cheese, you may be seeing asexual reproduction in action: many fungi use asexual reproduction to produce coloured spores that can drift through the air, then grow into a new mould when they land on a good surface (like your fresh bread). Grasses and many other plants reproduce asexually. If you've ever planted daffodil or tulip bulbs, or grown a new houseplant from a cutting, the new plants represented asexual reproduction by the original plants.

**What Kinds of Organisms Do Sexual Reproduction?**

Many different types of [eukaryotes](http://biology.answers.com/biodiversity/an-introduction-to-domain-eukarya) do sexual reproduction. Some eukaryotes, like plants and fungi, may be able to both asexual and sexual reproduction. In animals, asexual reproduction is more rare. People and many other familiar animals like mammals and most birds can only reproduce sexually. Some very simple animals like the tiny Hydra can reproduce asexually. Other animals, including some reptiles, amphibians, and insects, can reproduce asexually by a unique process called parthenogenesis: a female produces a normal egg as it would for sexual reproduction, but then basically uses one of its own cells to fertilize the egg. Because the offspring that develops only has genes from the mother, this is considered asexual reproduction.